23rd March 1934]

Agriculture.

Research work on betel vine in Poonamallee conducted by the Government Mycologist.

* 836 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the nature of special investigations done by the Government Mycologist, Agricultural College, Coimbatore, during the year 1933;

(*b*) the nature of research work done by the Government Mycologist on betel vine in Poonamallee, Chingleput district, and the number of times he visited the place during 1933; and

(*c*) the cost of tour undertaken in July 1933 and the nature of work done during this tour?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Attention is invited to the reports of the subordinate officers for 1932–33. The Government Mycologist visited Poonamallee only once in 1933.

(*c*) The total cost of the Mycologist's tours in July 1933 was Rs. 47–11–0 which included travelling allowances for visits to Tiruvallur and other places in the district during the tour to Poonamallee. The tour to Poonamallee was undertaken to inspect a betel vine garden where experiments to control betel vine wilt were in progress.

Co-operation.

Propaganda work among the Depressed Classes for the popularization of the Co-operative movement.

* 837 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Co-operative department are taking to do propaganda work among the Depressed Classes in the city and the mufassal for the creation of more co-operative societies among the Depressed Classes and generally to point out the benefits of the co-operative movement;

(*b*) whether the Co-operative department give facilities to non-official agencies that do co-operative work among the Depressed Classes in the city;

(*c*) if so, what they are; if not, why not; and

(*d*) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies refused to register the Depressed Classes Co-operators' Federation in the city; if so, the reasons therefor?

A.—(*a*) In view of the present condition of the movement, the policy of the department is not to encourage the organization of new societies, but to devote all its attention to the